

Remarks

By this amendment, claims 11-36 are canceled and new claims 37-50 are added. Thus, claims 1-10 and 37-50 are now pending in the application. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the application, particularly in the claims as originally filed and/or on page 11, lines 1-10 of the specification.

The specification has been amended as discussed below and to correct spelling errors that appear in paragraphs [0024], [0057], and [0058].

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Drawings

In answer to the objection to the drawings, please enter the enclosed replacement sheet of drawings on which item number "156C" is removed from FIG. 3C. The drawing sheet also is revised to change "182" to --282-- in FIGS. 4A and 4B.

By the foregoing amendment to the specification, item numbers "164C" and "168C" are added. The added language merely describes what is shown in by FIG. 3C.

Item number "174C" already appears in the specification (paragraph [0046]).

The other item numbers referenced in the Office action (200 and 300 series numbers) are found in the specification as filed, by the following statements.

At page 13, lines 17-19 (paragraph [0048]):

"In FIGS. 4A and 4B, elements that are similar to those shown in FIGS 3A and 3B bear the same element numbers, but in those cases the numbers in FIGS. 4A and 4B are incremented by 100."

At page 14, lines 10-12 (paragraph [0051]):

"In FIGS. 5-7, elements that are similar to those shown in FIGS 3A and 3B bear the same element numbers, but such numbers are incremented by 200 in FIGS. 5-7."

This customary terminology is used to avoid the need to slavishly recite repeated elements for every illustration in a patent application.

The drawings, as amended, are now entirely described by the terminology used in the specification.

35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 9, 22, and 23-25 stand rejected for reasons relating to lack of antecedent basis. All of these claims are hereby amended to supply antecedent basis or are cancelled. Amendments to the wording of the original claims are for form only and are not intended to narrow the scope of the reworded claims in any way.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the report that none of the claims is rejected based on prior art. As helpfully suggested by the examiner, claims 2, 8, and 10 are hereby rewritten in independent form. All the other pending independent claims also should be allowed because all 35 USC § 112 issues are now resolved.

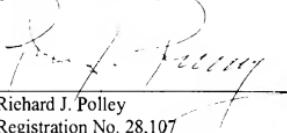
Conclusion

All the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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